

To: Renewable Advisory Board

From: Janice McClanaghan,
Energy Office

Date: December 8, 2004

Subject: Update

The following is the December, 2004, monthly update for the Renewable Energy Fund:

Supply Programs

Wind

- 1) URI – URI students presented an analysis to the Master Plan Review Committee (various visual and other siting factors as well as economic analysis) of 7 possible sites for a 1.0 or 1.5 MW wind turbine on campus. The Fund Board will see the visuals which were developed for the presentation at the January 2005 meeting when Dr. Pavlides will present his request for additional funding for his work on wind siting in the state. (See below.) The Master Plan Review Committee expressed great satisfaction with the work of the students and has pledged to follow through on the development of the wind turbine project with specific actions items: meeting with Town officials to present siting findings, further analysis of the selected site, and inclusion of the wind turbine project in discussions with performance contractors being selected for energy efficiency work at the University.
- 2) Portsmouth Abbey Wind – The wind monitoring tower was installed on December 4 by Henry DuPont and others, including students of the Abbey. The wind turbine project will be presented to the School's Board of Regents on December 14 for preliminary approval, for a final decision in February. In anticipation of Board of Regents approval, Portsmouth Abbey is requesting a grant of \$450,000 from the Fund towards the construction of the approximately \$1 million, 600 KW project.
- 3) Roger Williams University – Dr. Pavlides is requesting additional support for his work guiding students through various wind turbine siting activities in the state. His proposal is being presented in two stages: a bridge grant for work being done over the Christmas break and a request to cover the coming calendar year which will be presented to the Fund in January 2005. See attached bridge funding request and activities update.

Wave

- 4) Energetech – Point Judith
 - a) Permitting – MTC and Energetech are working on a formal Declaration of Intention to FERC which will require FERC to determine if the proposed project requires permitting under its jurisdiction. The developer and the State Funds (in accompanying letters) will argue that because the Point Judith project is a demonstration project of very small size, and because there is a state process (CRMC in consultation with other agencies) for permitting, which includes the Federal Government (Army Corps), FERC jurisdiction does not add value in terms of protecting the public and the ocean resource. Separately, the developer will continue the in-state permitting process with a pre-consultation meeting with the CRMC, during which the developer will seek to get a final and formal understanding of the information requirements for permitting.

PV

- 5) Solar on Schools – Entech Engineering has provided a separate update.
- 6) PV RFP – Proposed changes to the PV RFP will be discussed in the January 2005 meeting.
- 7) Low Income PV – SolarWright is in the process of examining the potential in the State to install PV project(s) on low income housing developments.

A meeting was held among the Fund, SolarWrights and Narragansett Electric on October 19 to discuss several aspects of such project(s), including siting issues (the relative merits of locating PV on low income housing vs. for example, on a State building, with benefits going to the low income population) and funding. It was agreed in the meeting that SolarWrights would explore a low income project and make a proposal to the Fund for incentives.

To date, SolarWrights has had discussions with one for-profit developer of low income housing who was willing in principal to be a host to a project provided he did not have to provide any funding for it (the project would have to be 100% paid for by the Fund.) Since the developer is a for-profit entity, it was decided to explore other options for a project host.

- 8) Solaris/Slater Center – Solaris Nanosciences, a subsidiary of Spectra Systems Corporation, a private company spun out of Brown University in 1996, is seeking venture investment from the Slater Center to develop a nanotechnology which can improve the efficiencies of dye sensitized solar cells, which are cheaper to manufacture than crystalline silicon cells, which comprise 90 % of the PV market. Ron Unterman and Solaris management will make a presentation to the Fund in January 2005, which will include a request for co-investment (through the Slater Center) in the Solaris. See attached information.

Hydro

- 9) Royal Mills Hydro Feasibility – No Update.

10) Rentricity:

- a) Rentricity has met with or discussed by phone renewable energy recovery opportunities with the 10 largest water utilities in the State.
- b) As expected, several of the utilities do not need to reduce pressure in their systems; therefore energy recovery is not possible. Follow up meetings and discussions are planned with Providence Water Board and others to further develop and evaluate project opportunities.
- c) Findings to date are that there are fewer medium size (30 -40 Kw) opportunities than originally anticipated and several large (greater than 50 Kw) potential projects. Rentricity is anticipating .6 Mw to 1 MW of power to build out in the near term, with many micro opportunities (20 kW and less) down the road when the Company commercializes technology which is applicable to this portion of the market.
- d) Rentricity will be placing a report before the Fund in early January. Also, it will be looking to present at the January 11 Advisory Board Meeting a summary of its effort including items for immediate action such as a request for pre-development and design funding support for 2-3 projects. In addition, it will be identifying areas for further study such as what needs to be done to make economically viable sites with generation potential of 10-20 Kw.

Customer Demand Programs

- 11) Renewable Energy Customer Aggregation (RECA) RFP and Proposal to Large Customer Program: An update from Mark Crowdis is provided under separate cover. Bob Grace will be making a presentation to the Board at the December 14 meeting which will include a request for an increase in the incentive payment under the Large Customer program (see letter from Mark Crowdis in attachments), due to increased project costs resulting from steel price hikes and dollar/euro devaluation.
- 12) State House Green Power Purchase – Final preparations are being made with the State Purchasing Office to post the RFP.
- 13) GreenUp – As of November 30, 2004 – there have been a total of 1418 GreenUp signups.

Outreach Programs

- 14) Smartpower – Smartpower has been assessing the past campaign and planning for the next over the past 6 weeks. Brian Keane and his team have met collectively with the marketers — and individually with them as well, with the intent of trying to determine what aspects of the campaign would work best for them. An op/ed for the Providence Journal was written on the GreenUp program and CleanEnergyRI campaign which hopefully will be published soon. The revisions to the 2005 CleanEnergyRI campaign plan will be presented to the Board at the January 2005 meeting. The campaign is scheduled to begin in mid-January assuming that the plan gains Board approval and has the support of the marketers and coordination with National Grid.